



4SC020 Mobile Robot Control 2024: Local navigation

MAY 1ST 2024

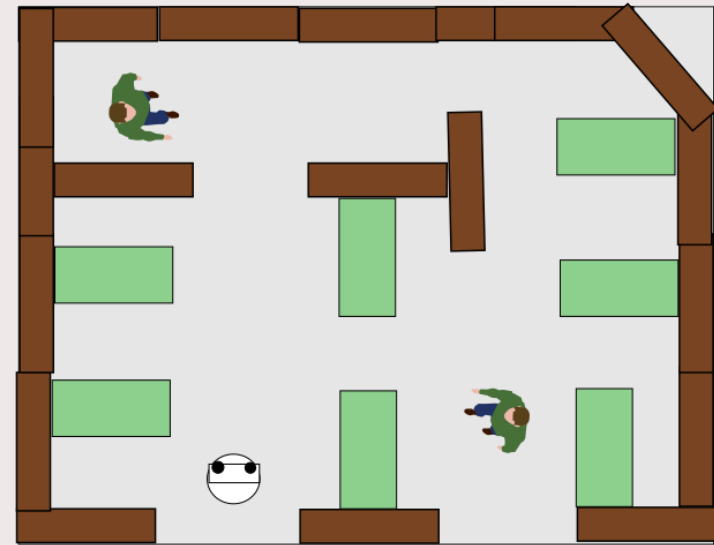
Aron Aertssen

Outline

- Robot navigation problem
- Local navigation algorithms: properties
- Local navigation algorithms: examples
- Recap
- Assignment

Robot navigation problem / introduction

- What is the robot navigation problem?



Robot navigation problem / introduction

- What is the robot navigation problem?
 - Find a feasible path or trajectory from a given initial pose (A) to the desired final pose (B)



Robot navigation problem / introduction

- What is the robot navigation problem?
 - Find a feasible path or trajectory from a given initial pose (A) to the desired final pose (B)
- This raises a question: where is A and where is B?



Robot navigation problem / local vs. global

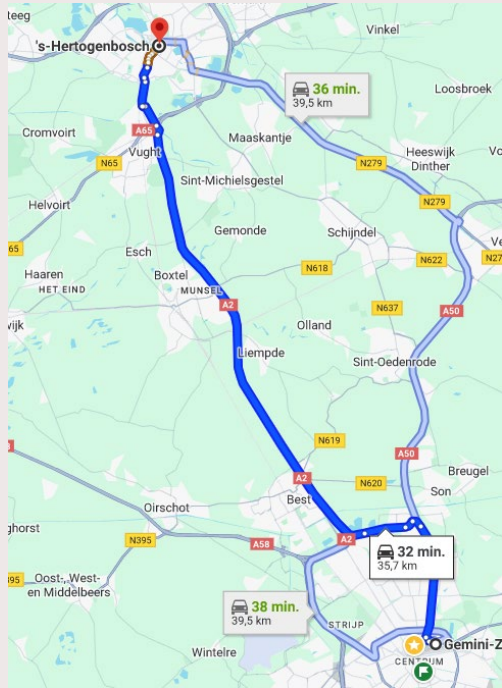
- Division into global and local navigation. Why?



Robot navigation problem / local vs. global

- Division into global and local navigation. Why?
 1. Reduce complexity
 - Global: compute path from start to goal
 - Local: move towards the goal using the global path as a guide

Robot navigation problem / local vs. global



Global

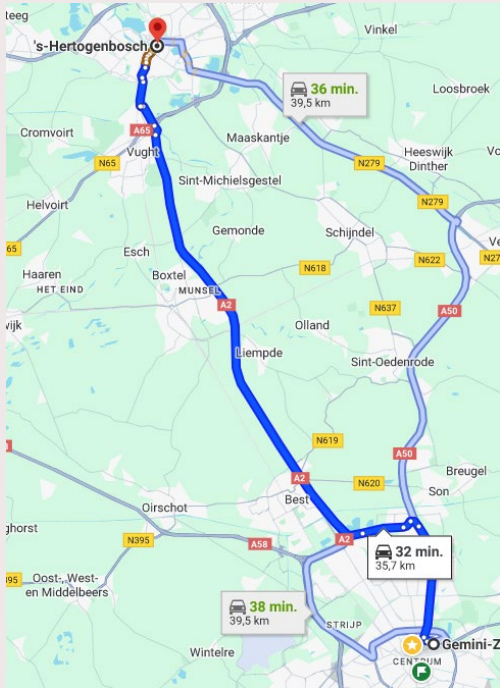


Local

Robot navigation problem / local vs. global

- Division into global and local navigation. Why?
 1. Reduce complexity
 2. Static vs. dynamic environment
 - Global: static environment
 - Local: uncertain, dynamic environment

Robot navigation problem / local vs. global



Global



Local

Robot navigation problem / local vs. global

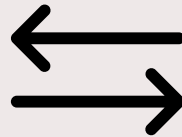
- Division into global and local navigation. Why?
 1. Reduce complexity
 2. Static vs. dynamic environment
 3. Global world model often incomplete
 - More information might come with time

Robot navigation problem / local vs. global

- Division into global and local navigation. Why?
- Where is local and global?

Robot navigation problem / local vs. global

- Division into global and local navigation. Why?
- Where is local and global?
 - Problem-dependent, but in general:
 - Local: sensor-range
 - Global: map
 - **Note:** explicitly define local and global to avoid confusion!



Robot navigation problem / local vs. global

- Division into global and local navigation. Why?
- Where is local and global?
- This week: **local navigation**
 - How can we solve this?
- Next week: global navigation

Local navigation algorithms / properties


- Goal of local navigation: go from A to B, using the **global path** as a guide





Local navigation algorithms / properties


- Goal of local navigation: go from A to B, using the global path as a guide
- Properties of local navigation algorithms


 Completeness: finding a path if one exists

 Optimality: finding the optimal path (time, energy, distance, ...)

 Computational complexity: scalability


 Robustness against a dynamic environment


 Robustness against uncertainty

 Kinematic and dynamic constraints


Local navigation algorithms / properties


- Last week's exercise: the art of nothing crashing
 - Let the robot drive forward and let it stop before it hits anything
 - **How to go to a certain goal?**
 - We want to balance not crashing and reaching the goal
- Several approaches exist, we will discuss three today


 Completeness: finding a path if one exists

 Optimality: finding the optimal path (time, energy, distance, ...)

 Computational complexity: scalability

 Robustness against a dynamic environment

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 Kinematic and dynamic constraints

Local navigation algorithms / examples

- Three examples
 - Artificial potential fields
 - Dynamic window approach
 - Vector field histograms

Local navigation algorithms / examples

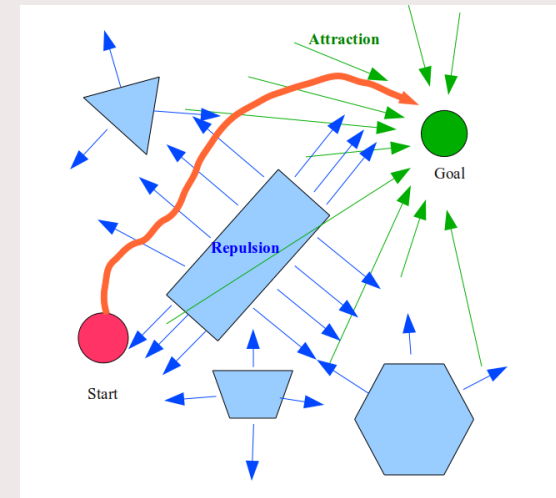
- Three examples
- Assumptions
 - A global path is available
 - Robot position is known
 - Obstacle positions are known

Local navigation algorithms / examples

- Three examples
- Assumptions
- Note that the explained algorithms directly provide **control outputs**
 - Often, a **path** is the output of a local navigation algorithm with requires a path following controller to obtain control outputs

Local navigation algorithms / artificial potential fields

- Artificial potentials
 - Attraction towards goal
 - Repulsion from obstacles
 - Think about marbles



<https://sudonull.com/post/62343-What-robotics-can-teach-gaming-AI>

Local navigation algorithms / artificial potential fields

- Artificial potentials
- Amplitude based on distance to object \mathbf{q}_j^o and goal \mathbf{q}_{goal} (See Chap 12.6 of [1])

- Note
 - \mathbf{q} is the robot configuration, in example: $\mathbf{q} = [x, y]$
 - $k, \rho_o > 0$
 - 'Goal' is next point of global path
 - $\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_j^o\|$ is to the closest point of the object

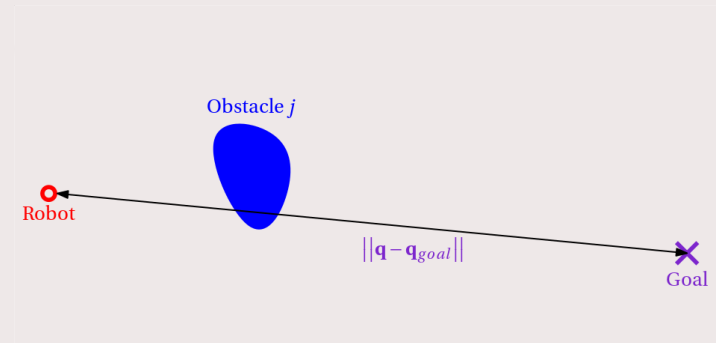


[1] B. Siciliano, L. Sciavicco, L. Villani, and G. Oriolo, "Robotics: Modelling, Planning and Control," Springer Publishing Company, Incorporated, 2010

Local navigation algorithms / artificial potential fields

- Artificial potentials
- Amplitude based on distance to object \mathbf{q}_j^o and goal \mathbf{q}_{goal} (See Chap 12.6 of [1])
- $U_{att}(\mathbf{q}) = \frac{1}{2}k_a(\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_{goal}\|)^2$

- Note
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Local navigation algorithms / artificial potential fields

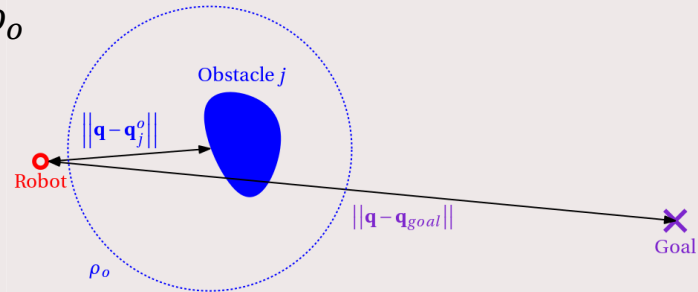
- Artificial potentials
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$$U_{att}(\mathbf{q}) = \frac{1}{2} k_a (\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_{goal}\|)^2$$

$$U_{rep,j}(\mathbf{q}) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} k_{rep,j} \left(\frac{1}{\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_j^o\|} - \frac{1}{\rho_o} \right)^2 & \text{if } \|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_j^o\| \leq \rho_o \\ 0 & \text{if } \|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_j^o\| > \rho_o \end{cases}$$

- Note

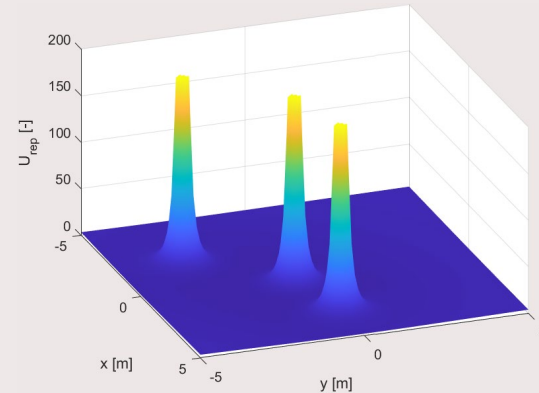
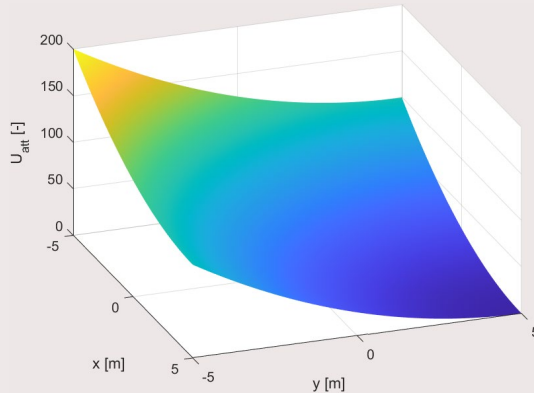
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Local navigation algorithms / artificial potential fields

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- Amplitude based on distance to object q_j^0 and goal q_{goal} (See Chap 12.6 of [1])



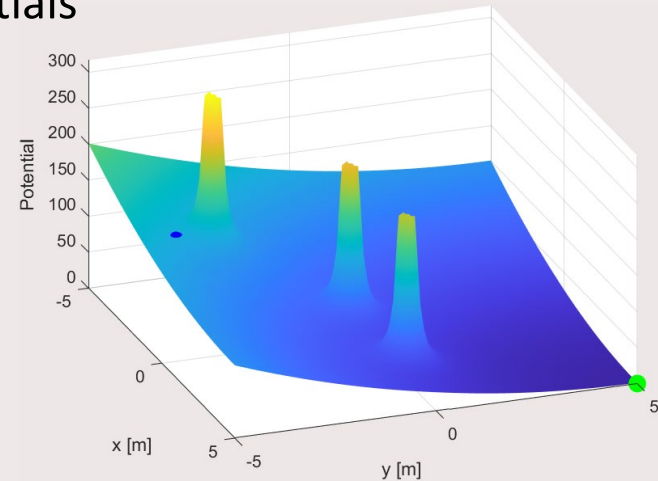
- Starting point: $[-2, -4]$
- Goal point: $[5, 5]$
- 3 obstacles: $[-2, -3], [0.5, -0.5], [3, 0]$

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Local navigation algorithms / artificial potential fields

- Artificial potentials
- Amplitude based on distance to object \mathbf{q}_j^0 and goal \mathbf{q}_{goal}
- Total potential field is the sum of individual potentials

$$U(\mathbf{q}) = U_{att}(\mathbf{q}) + \sum_{j=1}^n U_{rep,j}(\mathbf{q})$$



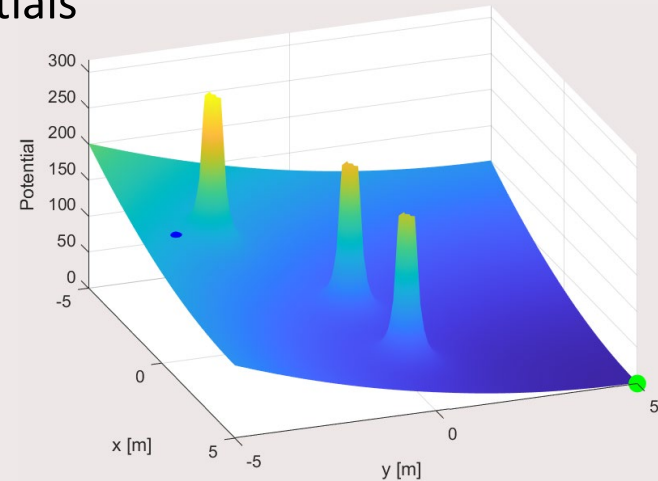
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Local navigation algorithms / artificial potential fields

- Artificial potentials
- Amplitude based on distance to object q_j^0 and goal q_{goal}
- Total potential field is the sum of individual potentials
- The artificial force acting on the robot is then

$$F(\mathbf{q}) = -\nabla U(\mathbf{q})$$

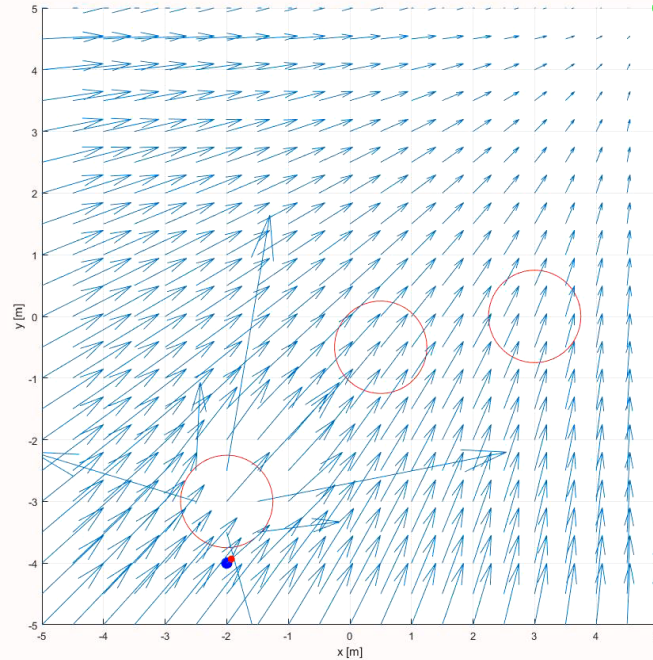


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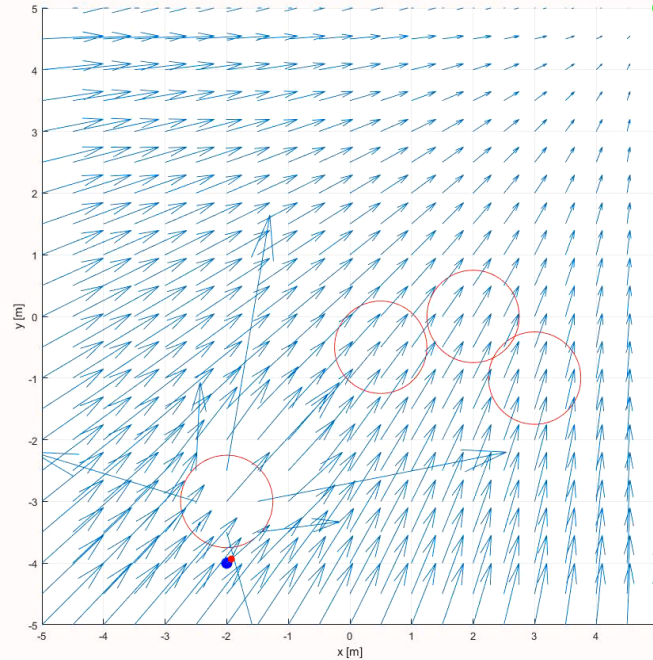
Local navigation algorithms / artificial potential fields

- Artificial potentials
- Amplitude based on distance to object \mathbf{q}_j^0 and goal \mathbf{q}_{goal}
- Total potential field is the sum of individual potentials
- The artificial force acting on the robot is then
- How to use that force?
 - Point mass: $\ddot{\mathbf{q}} = F(\mathbf{q})$
 - Desired velocity: $\dot{\mathbf{q}} = F(\mathbf{q})$

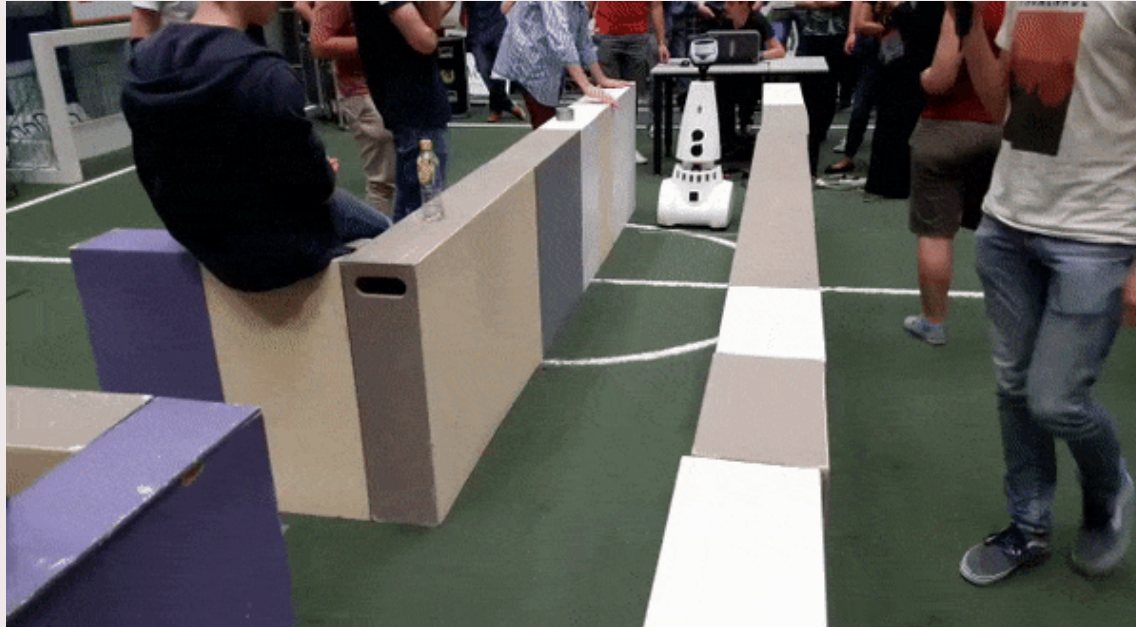
Local navigation algorithms / artificial potential fields



Local navigation algorithms / artificial potential fields



Local navigation algorithms / artificial potential fields

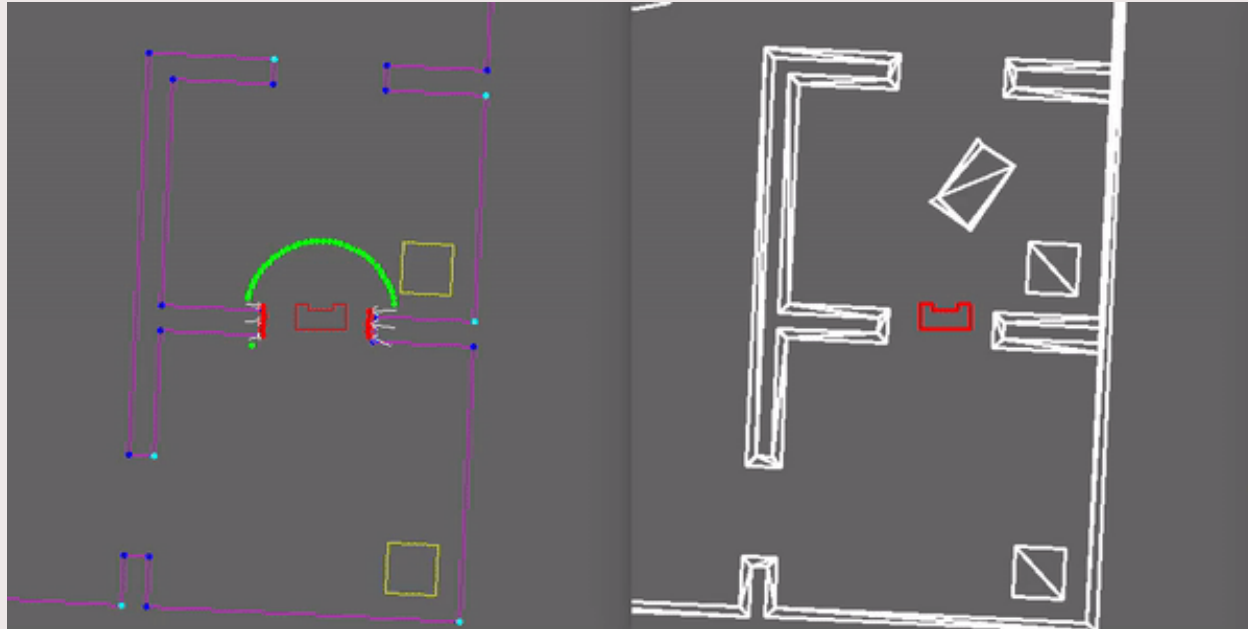


EMC 2017 – Group 10

Local navigation algorithms / artificial potential fields

- Artificial potentials
- Amplitude based on distance to object \mathbf{q}_j^0 and goal \mathbf{q}_{goal}
- Total potential field is the sum of individual potentials
- The artificial force acting on the robot is then
- How to use that force?
- In the simulation videos we know everything... **How to do it in real life?**

Local navigation algorithms / artificial potential fields

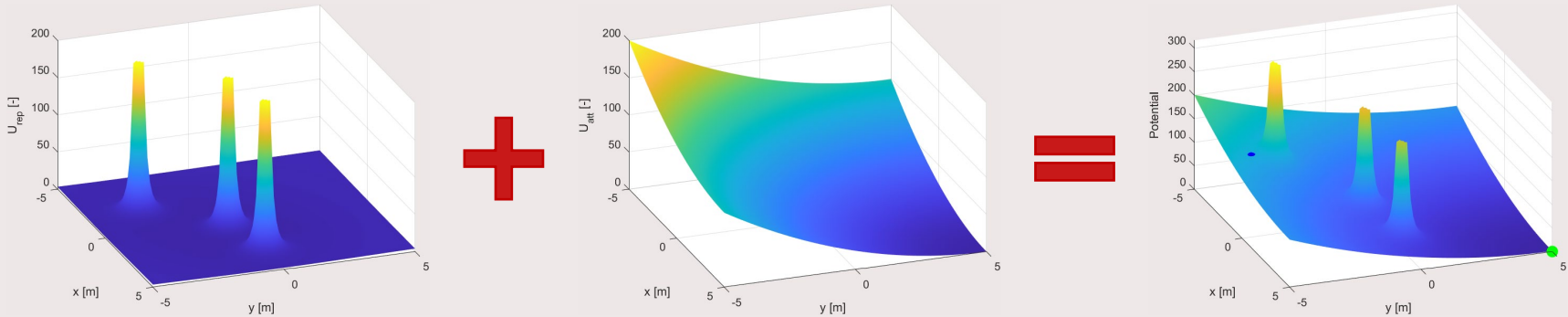


Simulation - MRC 2019 – Group 2

Local navigation algorithms / artificial potential fields

- Artificial potentials
- Amplitude based on distance to object q_j^0 and goal q_{goal}
- Total potential field is the sum of individual potentials
- The artificial force acting on the robot is then
- How to use that force?
- In the simulation videos we know everything... **How to do it in real life?**
 - How to represent obstacles from laser points?
 - Include size of the robot

Local navigation algorithms / artificial potential fields

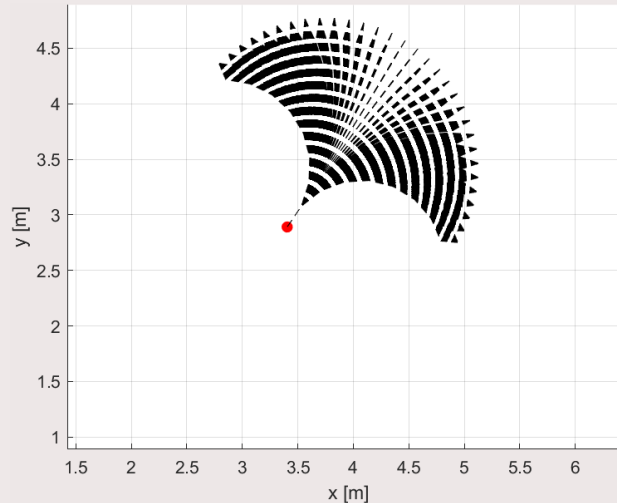


Questions?

[1] B. Siciliano, L. Sciacivco, L. Villani, and G. Oriolo, "Robotics: Modelling, Planning and Control," Springer Publishing Company, Incorporated, 2010

Local navigation algorithms / dynamic window approach

- Reactive collision avoidance based on robot dynamics
 - Intuition: certain velocity during certain time, see where we end and select most optimal



D. Fox, W. Burgard and S. Thrun, "The dynamic window approach to collision avoidance," in *IEEE Robotics & Automation Magazine*, vol. 4, no. 1, pp. 23-33, March 1997, doi: 10.1109/100.580977.

Local navigation algorithms / dynamic window approach

- Reactive collision avoidance based on robot dynamics
- Consider velocities (v, ω) during t , where (v, ω) have to be

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Local navigation algorithms / dynamic window approach

- Reactive collision avoidance based on robot dynamics
- Consider velocities (v, ω) during t , where (v, ω) have to be
 - Possible: velocities are limited by robot's dynamics

$$V_s = \{v, \omega \mid v \in [v_{min}, v_{max}] \wedge \omega \in [\omega_{min}, \omega_{max}]\}$$

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Local navigation algorithms / dynamic window approach

- Reactive collision avoidance based on robot dynamics
- Consider velocities (v, ω) during t , where (v, ω) have to be
 - Possible: velocities are limited by robot's dynamics
 - Admissible: robot can stop before reaching closest obstacle

$$V_a = \left\{ v, \omega \mid v \leq \sqrt{2d(v, \omega)\dot{v}_b} \wedge \omega \leq \sqrt{2d(v, \omega)\dot{\omega}_b} \right\}$$

\dot{v}_b and $\dot{\omega}_b$ are maximum deceleration values

$d(v, \omega)$ is distance to closest object

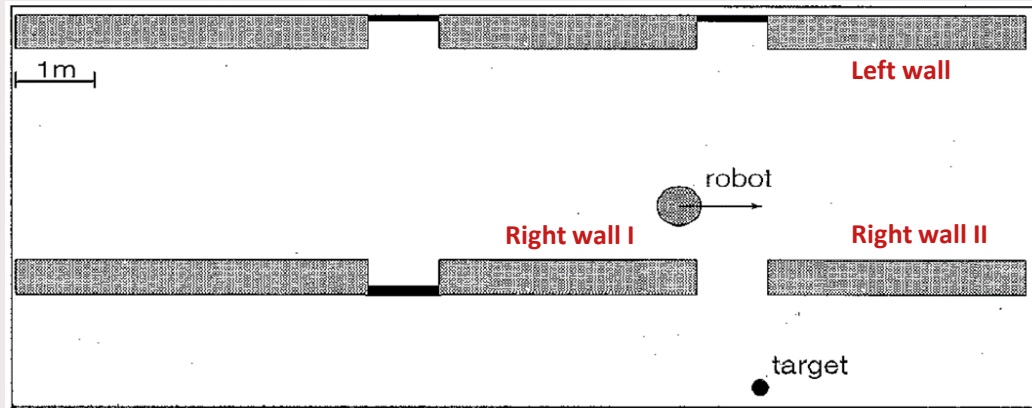
Local navigation algorithms / dynamic window approach

- Reactive collision avoidance based on robot dynamics
- Consider velocities (v, ω) during t , where (v, ω) have to be
 - Possible: velocities are limited by robot's dynamics
 - Admissible: robot can stop before reaching closest obstacle
 - Reachable: velocity and acceleration constraints (dynamic window)

$$V_d = \{v, \omega \mid v \in [v_a - \dot{v}t, v_a + \dot{v}t] \wedge \omega \in [\omega_a - \dot{\omega}t, \omega_a + \dot{\omega}t]\}$$

v_a and ω_a are actual velocities
 \dot{v} and $\dot{\omega}$ are acceleration values

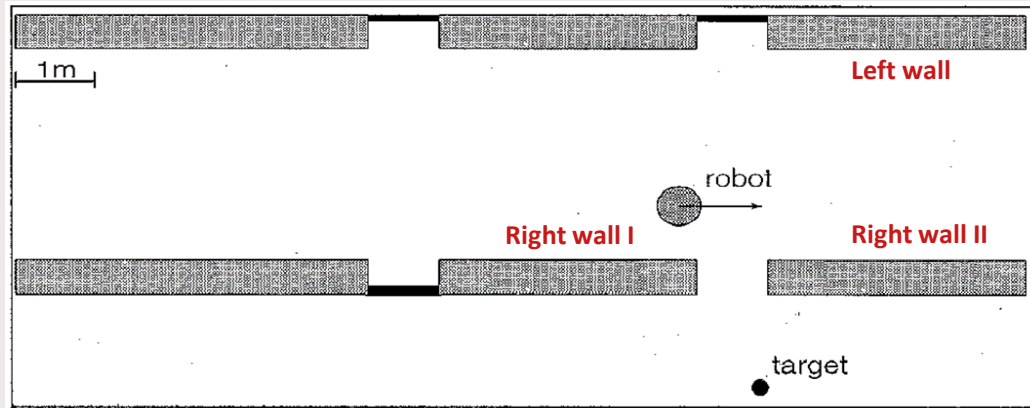
Local navigation algorithms / dynamic window approach



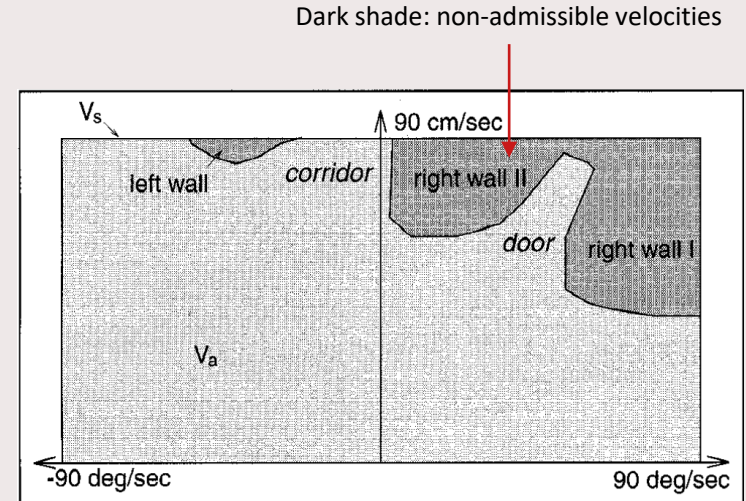
V_a : admissible velocities
 V_r : reachable velocities
 V_s : velocity search space

D. Fox, W. Burgard and S. Thrun, "The dynamic window approach to collision avoidance," in *IEEE Robotics & Automation Magazine*, vol. 4, no. 1, pp. 23-33, March 1997, doi: 10.1109/100.580977.

Local navigation algorithms / dynamic window approach



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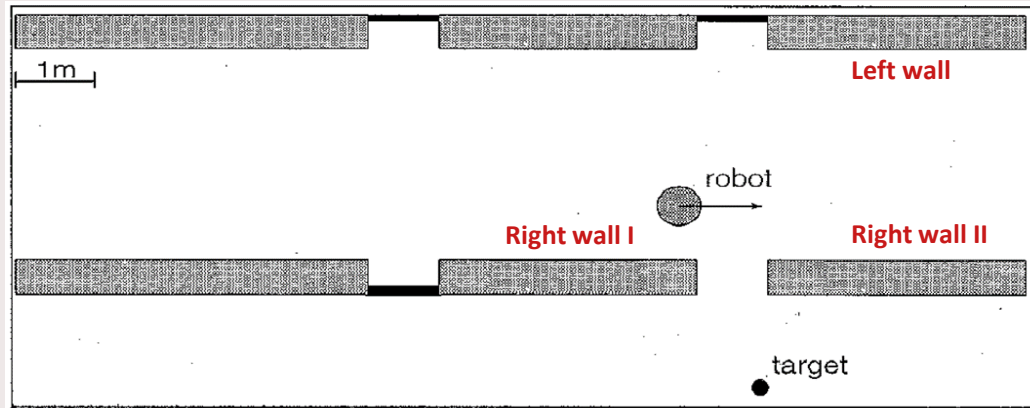
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$$V_a = \{v, \omega | v \leq \sqrt{2d(v, \omega)\dot{v}_b} \wedge \omega \leq \sqrt{2d(v, \omega)\dot{\omega}_b}\}$$

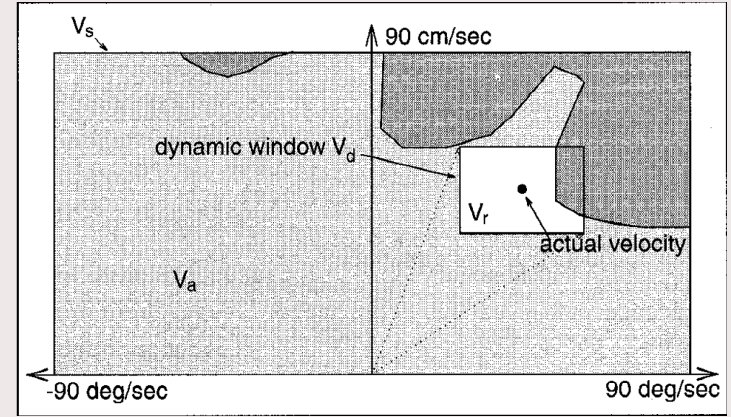
Here $\dot{v}_b = 50 \text{ cm/s}^2$, $\dot{\omega}_b = 60 \text{ deg/s}^2$

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Local navigation algorithms / dynamic window approach



V_a : admissible velocities
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 V_s : velocity search space



$$V_d = \{v, \omega | v \in [v_a - \dot{v}\Delta t, v_a + \dot{v}\Delta t] \wedge \omega \in [\omega_a - \dot{\omega}\Delta t, \omega_a + \dot{\omega}\Delta t]\}$$

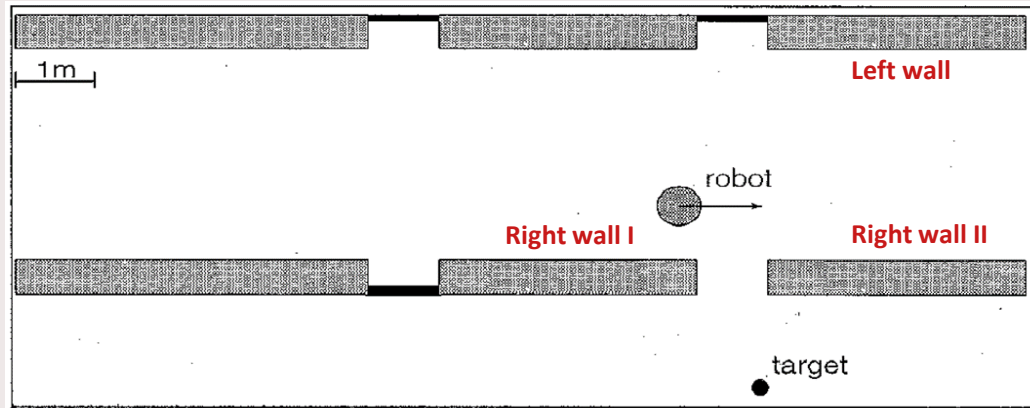
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Local navigation algorithms / dynamic window approach

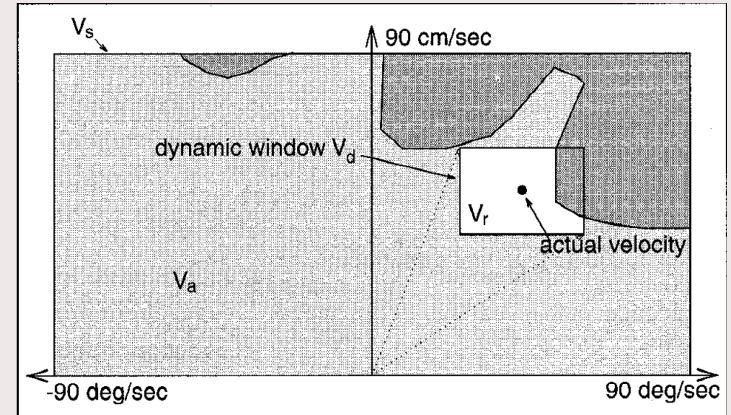
- Reactive collision avoidance based on robot dynamics
 - Consider velocities (v, ω) during t : possible, admissible, reachable
 - Generate search space
 - Intersection of V_s, V_a and V_d provides search space V_r
$$V_r = V_s \cap V_a \cap V_d$$
- gives $(v_{range}, \omega_{range}) \in V_r$ at each time step

D. Fox, W. Burgard and S. Thrun, "The dynamic window approach to collision avoidance," in *IEEE Robotics & Automation Magazine*, vol. 4, no. 1, pp. 23-33, March 1997, doi: 10.1109/100.580977.

Local navigation algorithms / dynamic window approach



V_a : admissible velocities
 V_r : reachable velocities
 V_s : velocity search space



$$\rightarrow V_r = V_s \cap V_a \cap V_d \text{ (white area)}$$

$$\rightarrow (v_{range}, \omega_{range}) \in V_r$$

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Local navigation algorithms / dynamic window approach

- Reactive collision avoidance based on robot dynamics
- Consider velocities (v, ω) during t : possible, admissible, reachable
- Generate search space

$x(0), y(0)$ and $\theta(0)$ are current position

for $i = 1:N$

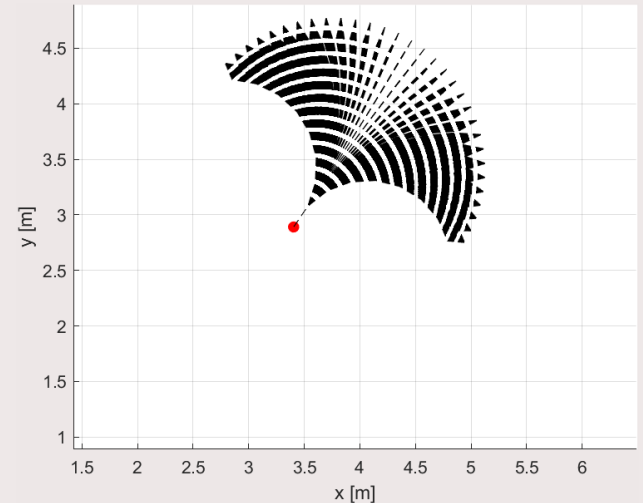
 for $j = 1:\text{len}(v_{\text{range}})$

 for $k = 1:\text{len}(\omega_{\text{range}})$

$$x(i+1) = x(i) + v_{\text{range}}(j) \cdot \cos(\theta(i))$$

$$y(i+1) = y(i) + \Delta t \cdot v_{\text{range}}(j) \cdot \sin(\theta(i))$$

$$\theta(i+1) = \theta(i) + \Delta t \cdot \omega_{\text{range}}(k)$$



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Local navigation algorithms / dynamic window approach

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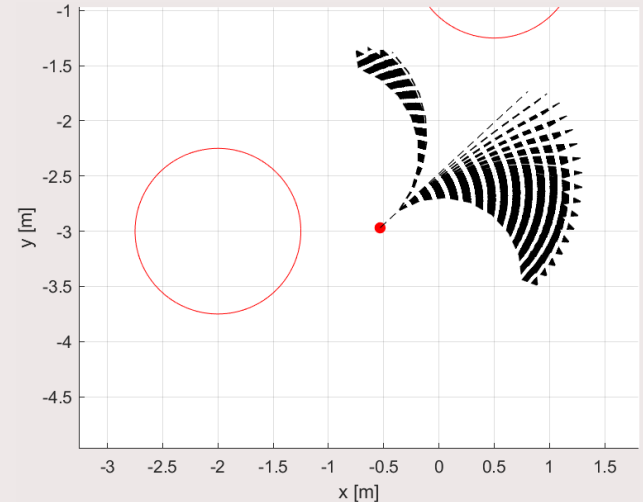
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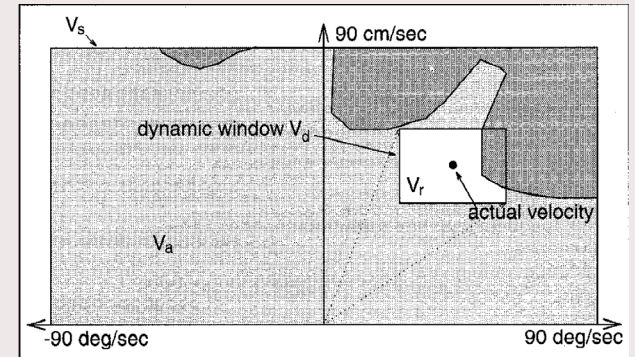
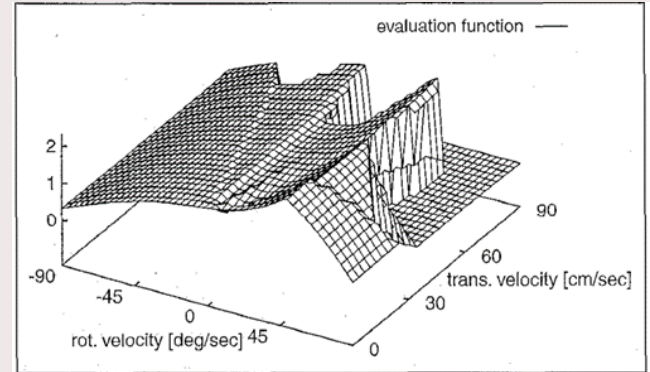
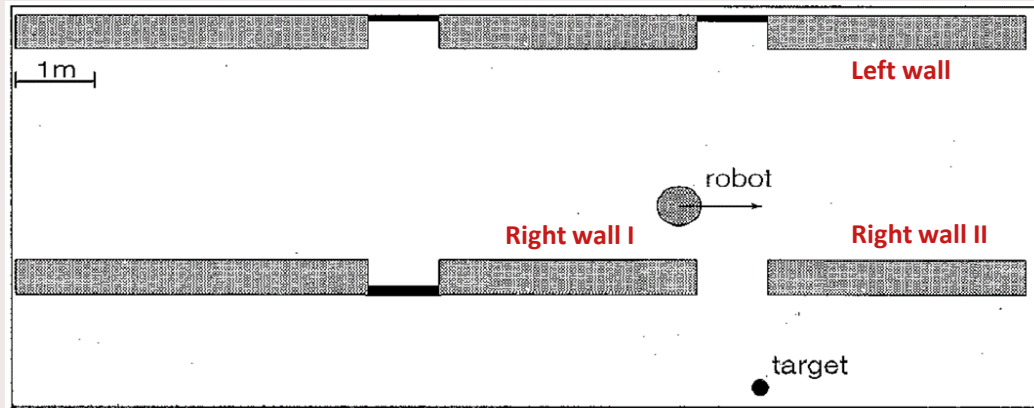
Local navigation algorithms / dynamic window approach

- Reactive collision avoidance based on robot dynamics
- Consider velocities (v, ω) during t : possible, admissible, reachable
- Generate search space
- Maximize objective function G within dynamic window

$$G(v, \omega) = \sigma(k_h h(v, \omega) + k_d d(v, \omega) + k_s s(v, \omega))$$

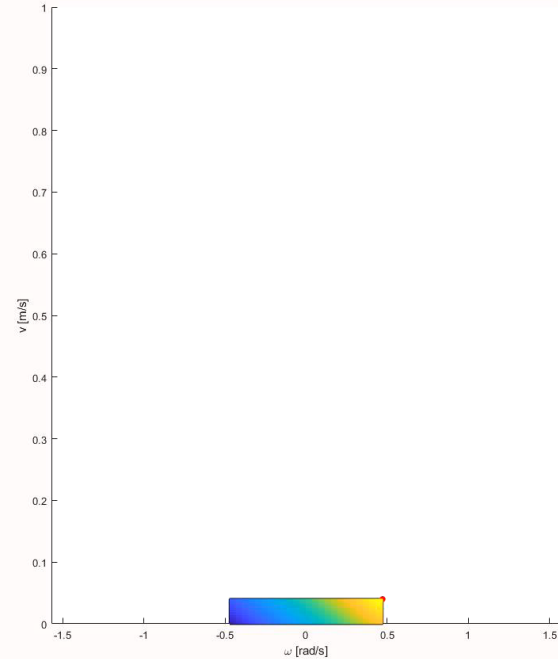
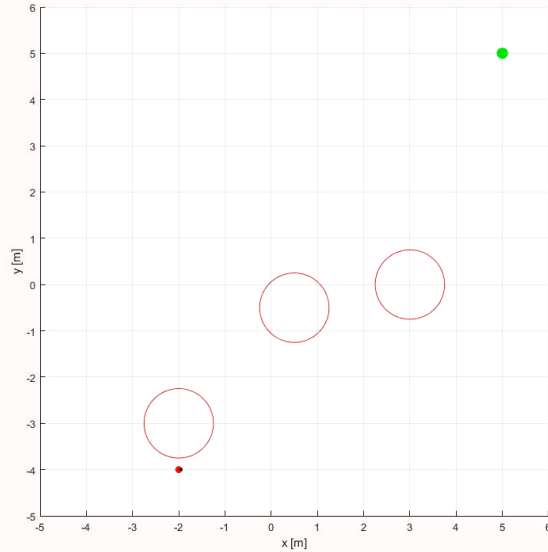
- $h(v, \omega)$: target heading towards goal
- $d(v, \omega)$: distance to closest obstacle on trajectory
- $s(v, \omega)$: forward velocity

Local navigation algorithms / dynamic window approach



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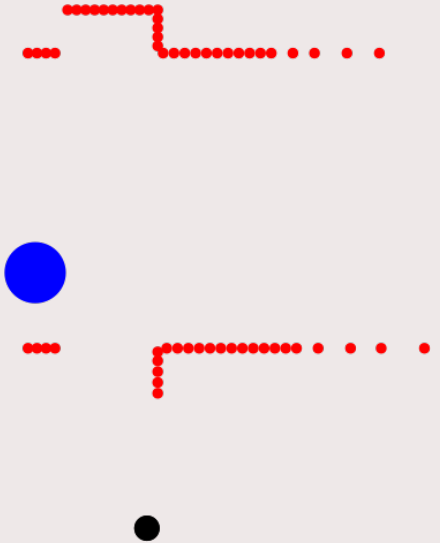
Local navigation algorithms / dynamic window approach



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Local navigation algorithms / dynamic window approach

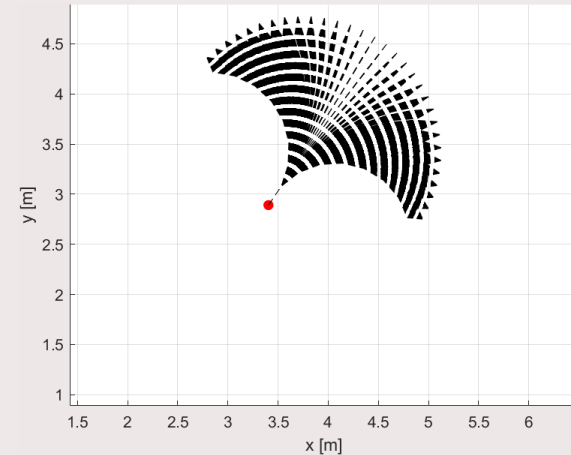
- How to represent the obstacles?
- Available information:
 - Laser range points
 - Trajectory from discretized velocities might fall between two points
- Also, incorporate the size of the robot
 - In the video, robot is a point mass



D. Fox, W. Burgard and S. Thrun, "The dynamic window approach to collision avoidance," in *IEEE Robotics & Automation Magazine*, vol. 4, no. 1, pp. 23-33, March 1997, doi: 10.1109/100.580977.

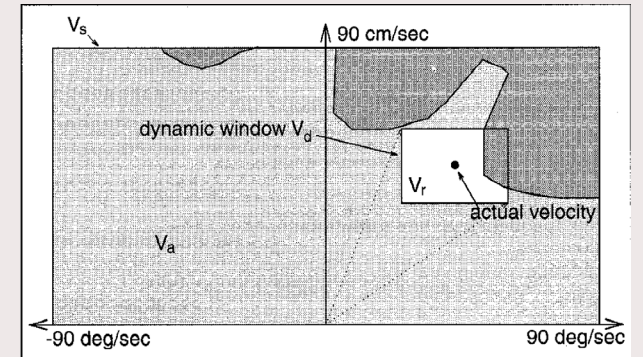
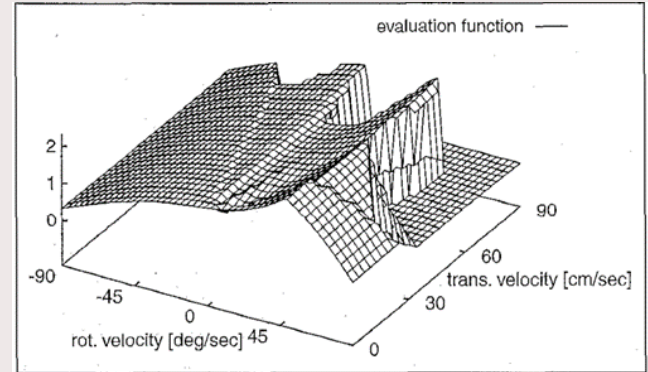
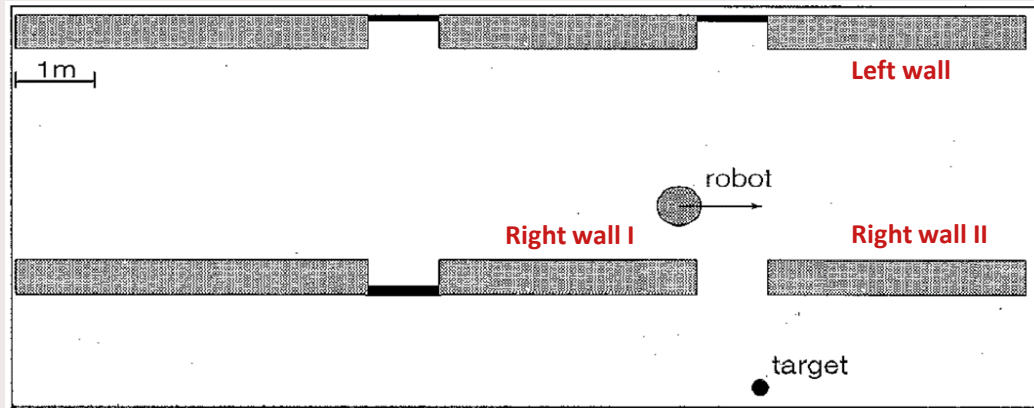
Local navigation algorithms / dynamic window approach

- Reactive collision avoidance based on robot dynamics
- Consider velocities (v, ω) during t : possible, admissible, reachable
- Generate search space
- Maximize objective function G within dynamic window
- Again, we have all information in simulation videos...
- Implementation
 - How to check if a path is valid?
 - How discretize v_{range} and ω_{range} ?
 - How to account for robot size?



D. Fox, W. Burgard and S. Thrun, "The dynamic window approach to collision avoidance," in *IEEE Robotics & Automation Magazine*, vol. 4, no. 1, pp. 23-33, March 1997, doi: 10.1109/100.580977.

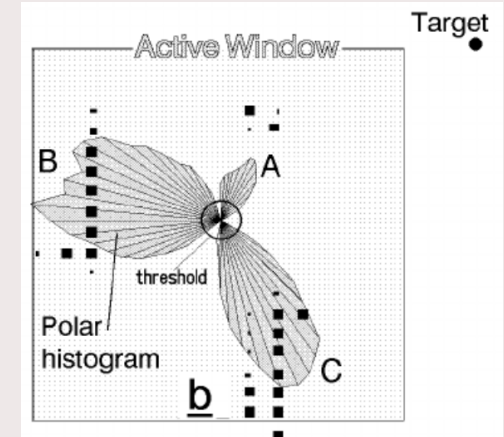
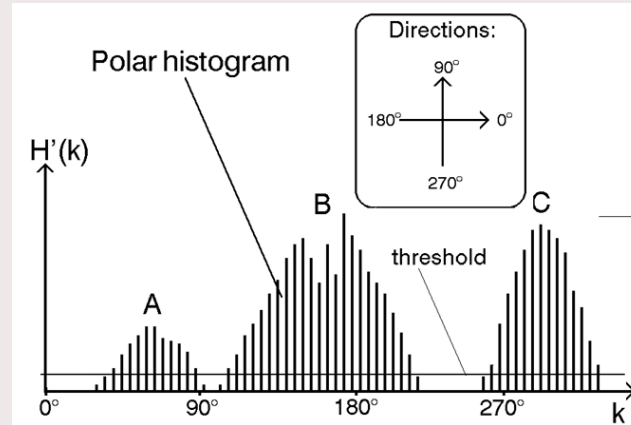
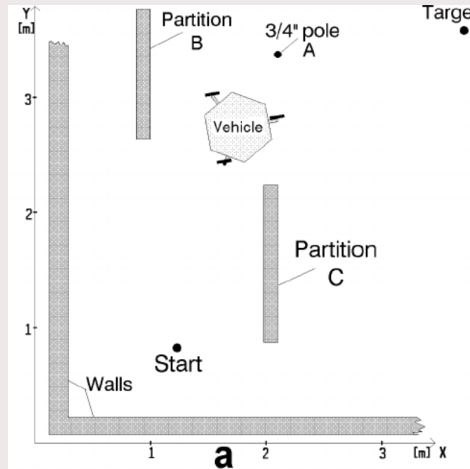
Local navigation algorithms / dynamic window approach



Questions?

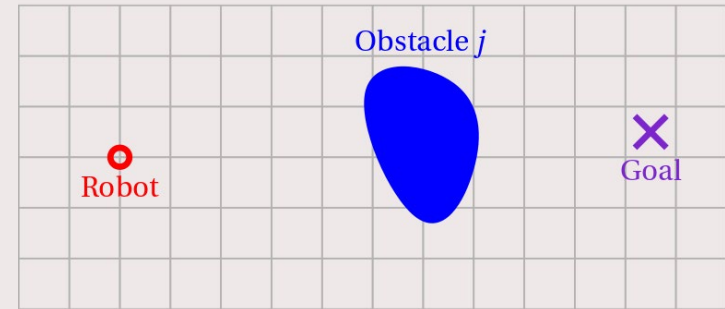
Local navigation algorithms / vector field histograms

- Treat objects as vectors in a 2D Cartesian histogram grid, and create a polar histogram to determine possible 'open spaces' to get to the goal



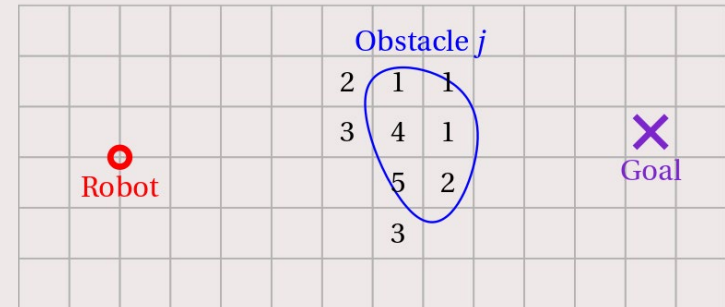
Local navigation algorithms / vector field histograms

- 2D Cartesian histogram grid



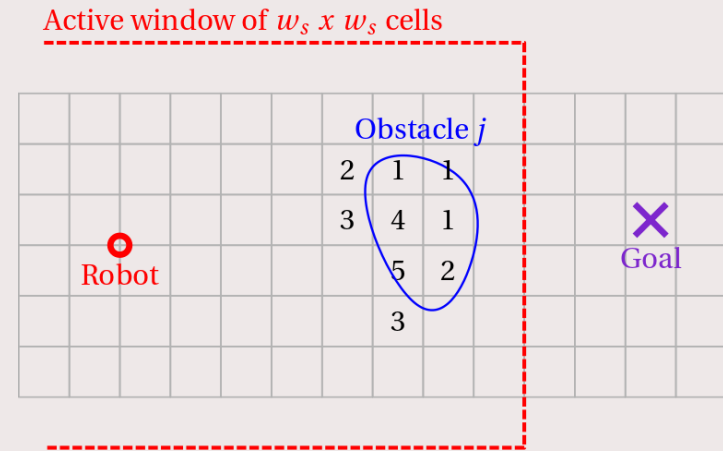
Local navigation algorithms / vector field histograms

- 2D Cartesian histogram grid
 - each cell holds a certainty (or confidence) value $c_{i,j}$ of that cell containing an obstacle



Local navigation algorithms / vector field histograms

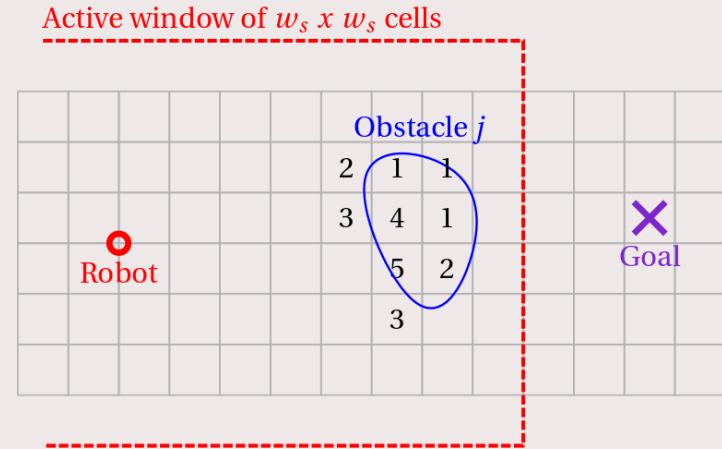
- 2D Cartesian histogram grid
 - each cell holds a certainty (or confidence) value $c_{i,j}$ of that cell containing an obstacle
 - Active window



Note that the active window should be square and centered around robot, drawing is purely for visualization of the approach

Local navigation algorithms / vector field histograms

- 2D Cartesian histogram grid
 - each cell holds a certainty (or confidence) value $c_{i,j}$ of that cell containing an obstacle
 - Active window
 - Each active cell is treated as obstacle vector with
 - direction $\beta_{i,j} = \text{atan2}(y_j - y_0, x_i - x_0)$
 - magnitude $m_{i,j} = c_{i,j}^2(a - bd_{i,j})$
 - Choose a, b such that $a - bd_{max} = 0$
 - $d_{max} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}(w_s - 1)$
 - see [1] for further explanation on the values of a and b



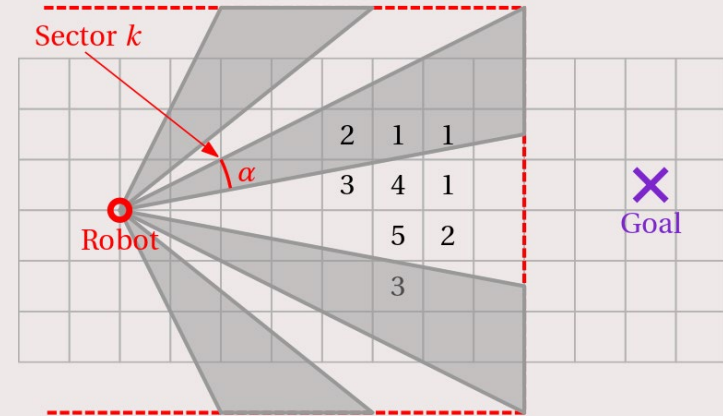
[1] J. Borenstein and Y. Koren, "The vector field histogram-fast obstacle avoidance for mobile robots," in IEEE Transactions on Robotics and Automation, vol. 7, no. 3, pp. 278-288, June 1991, doi: 10.1109/70.88137.

Local navigation algorithms / vector field histograms

- 2D Cartesian histogram grid
- Polar histogram
 - Sector k corresponds to angular resolution α

$$\alpha = \frac{360^\circ}{n}$$

n is an integer, $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n - 1$

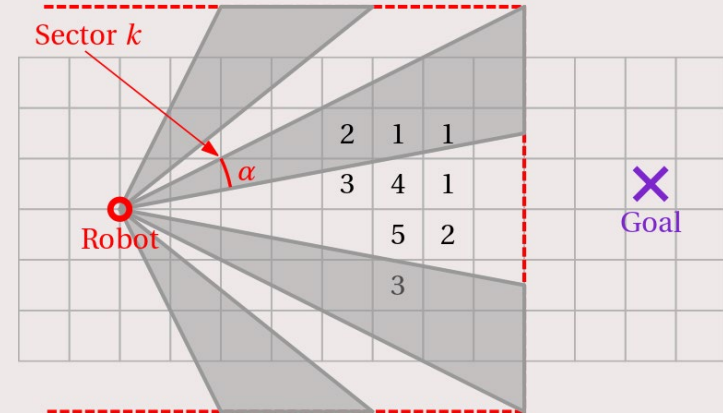


[1] J. Borenstein and Y. Koren, "The vector field histogram-fast obstacle avoidance for mobile robots," in IEEE Transactions on Robotics and Automation, vol. 7, no. 3, pp. 278-288, June 1991, doi: 10.1109/70.88137.

Local navigation algorithms / vector field histograms

- 2D Cartesian histogram grid
- Polar histogram
 - Sector k corresponds to angular resolution α
 - Link between each cell $c_{i,j}$ and k

$$k = \text{int}\left(\frac{\beta_{i,j}}{\alpha}\right)$$



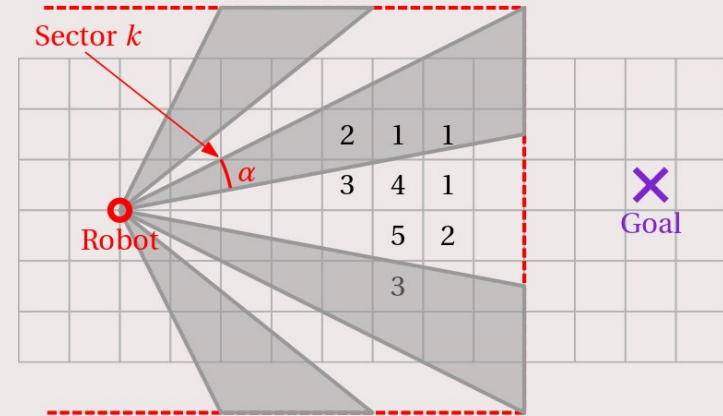
[1] J. Borenstein and Y. Koren, "The vector field histogram-fast obstacle avoidance for mobile robots," in IEEE Transactions on Robotics and Automation, vol. 7, no. 3, pp. 278-288, June 1991, doi: 10.1109/70.88137.

Local navigation algorithms / vector field histograms

- 2D Cartesian histogram grid
- Polar histogram
 - Sector k corresponds to angular resolution α
 - Link between each cell $c_{i,j}$ and k
 - For each sector k , polar obstacle density h_k is

$$h_k = \sum_{i,j} m_{i,j}$$

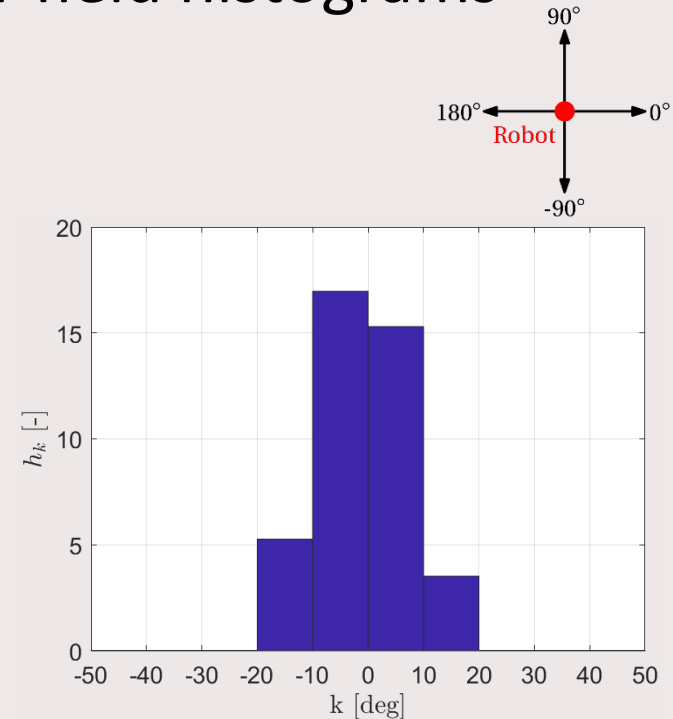
Note: needs smoothing due to discrete map, see [1]



[1] J. Borenstein and Y. Koren, "The vector field histogram-fast obstacle avoidance for mobile robots," in IEEE Transactions on Robotics and Automation, vol. 7, no. 3, pp. 278-288, June 1991, doi: 10.1109/70.88137.

Local navigation algorithms / vector field histograms

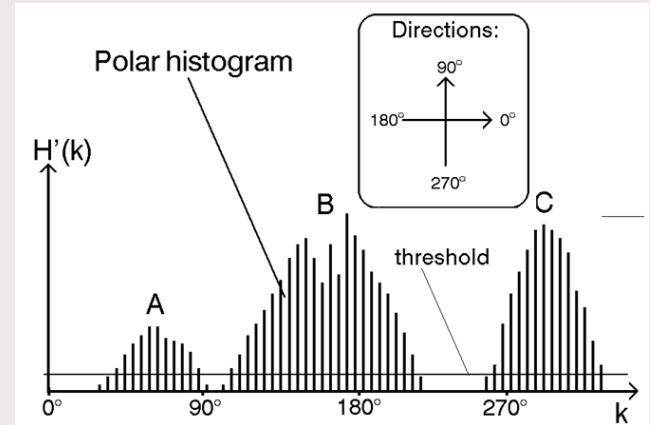
- 2D Cartesian histogram grid
- Polar histogram
 - Sector k corresponds to angular resolution α
 - Link between each cell $c_{i,j}$ and k
 - For each sector k , polar obstacle density h_k
 - Resulting histogram
 - Note that the figure only shows $[-50^\circ, 50^\circ]$, but the histogram is actually $[-180^\circ, 180^\circ]$
 - Note that no smoothing is applied



[1] J. Borenstein and Y. Koren, "The vector field histogram-fast obstacle avoidance for mobile robots," in IEEE Transactions on Robotics and Automation, vol. 7, no. 3, pp. 278-288, June 1991, doi: 10.1109/70.88137.

Local navigation algorithms / vector field histograms

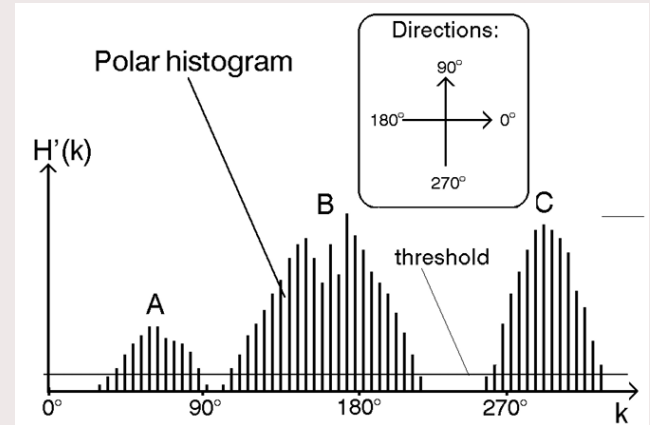
- 2D Cartesian histogram grid
- Polar histogram
- Steering direction
 - Smoothed polar histogram $H'(k)$ [1]



[1] J. Borenstein and Y. Koren, "The vector field histogram-fast obstacle avoidance for mobile robots," in IEEE Transactions on Robotics and Automation, vol. 7, no. 3, pp. 278-288, June 1991, doi: 10.1109/70.88137.

Local navigation algorithms / vector field histograms

- 2D Cartesian histogram grid
- Polar histogram
- Steering direction
 - Smoothed polar histogram $H'(k)$ [1]
 - Candidate valleys: $H'(k)$ below threshold



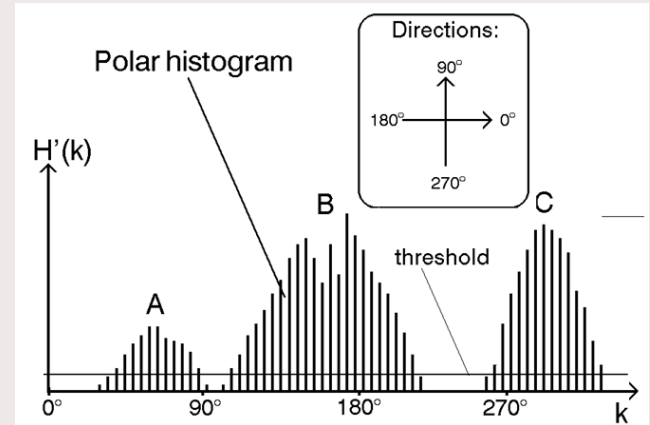
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Local navigation algorithms / vector field histograms

- 2D Cartesian histogram grid
- Polar histogram
- Steering direction
 - Smoothed polar histogram $H'(k)$ [1]
 - Candidate valleys: $H'(k)$ below threshold
 - Angle θ is the middle of candidate valley

$$\theta = \frac{1}{2} \alpha(k_l + k_r)$$

k_l and k_r are left and right boundary of selected valley



[1] J. Borenstein and Y. Koren, "The vector field histogram-fast obstacle avoidance for mobile robots," in IEEE Transactions on Robotics and Automation, vol. 7, no. 3, pp. 278-288, June 1991, doi: 10.1109/70.88137.

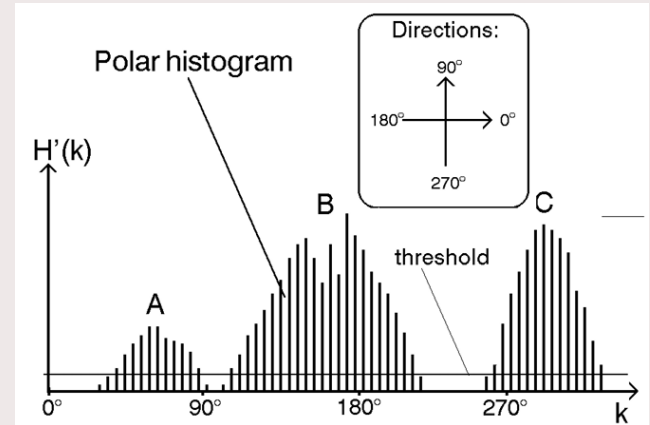
Local navigation algorithms / vector field histograms

- 2D Cartesian histogram grid
- Polar histogram
- Steering direction
 - Smoothed polar histogram $H'(k)$ [1]
 - Candidate valleys: $H'(k)$ below threshold
 - Angle θ is the middle of candidate valley

$$\theta = \frac{1}{2} \alpha(k_l + k_r)$$

k_l and k_r are left and right boundary of selected valley

- Select the valley with closest match to goal direction



[1] J. Borenstein and Y. Koren, "The vector field histogram-fast obstacle avoidance for mobile robots," in IEEE Transactions on Robotics and Automation, vol. 7, no. 3, pp. 278-288, June 1991, doi: 10.1109/70.88137.

Local navigation algorithms / vector field histograms

- 2D Cartesian histogram grid
- Polar histogram
- Steering direction
- Velocity control
- Anticipatory reduction: $v' = V_{max} \left(1 - \frac{1}{h_m} \min(h'_c, h_m) \right)$

h'_c : obstacle density in current direction of travel

h_m : empirically determined constant to obtain sufficient speed reduction

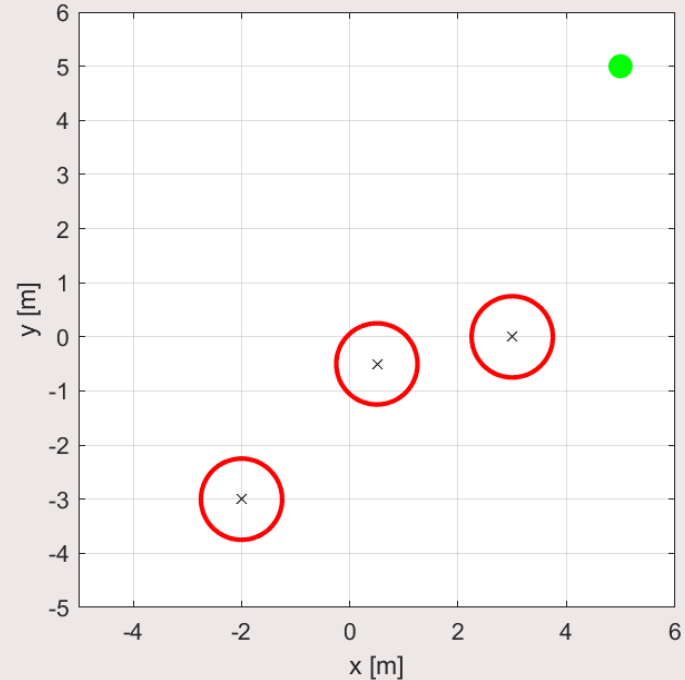
Local navigation algorithms / vector field histograms

- 2D Cartesian histogram grid
- Polar histogram
- Steering direction
- Velocity control
 - Anticipatory reduction: $v' = V_{max} \left(1 - \frac{1}{h_m} \min(h'_c, h_m) \right)$
 - Steering speed reduction: $v = v' \left(1 - \frac{\dot{\theta}}{\dot{\theta}_{max}} \right) + V_{min}$

h'_c : obstacle density in current direction of travel
 h_m : empirically determined constant to obtain sufficient speed reduction
 $\dot{\theta}$: steering rate

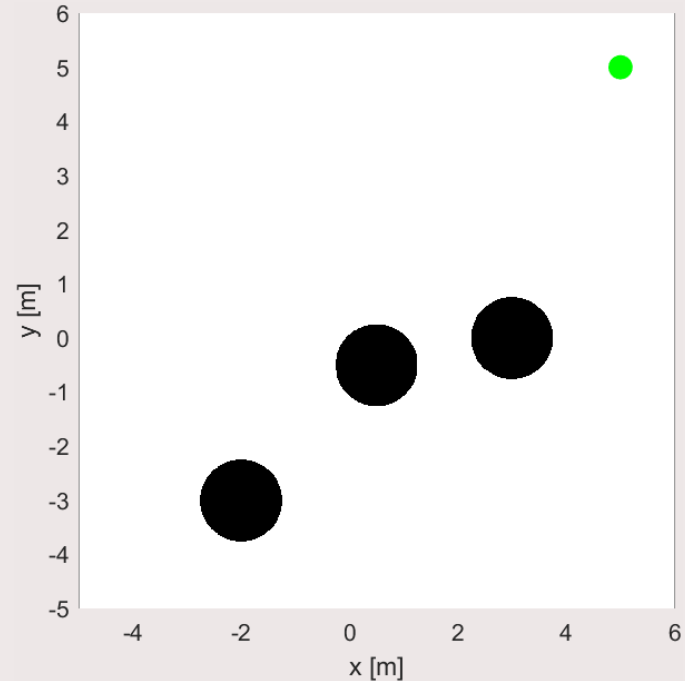
Local navigation algorithms / vector field histograms

- 2D Cartesian histogram grid
- Polar histogram
- Steering direction
- Velocity control
- Example
 - Grid world map to create histogram grid

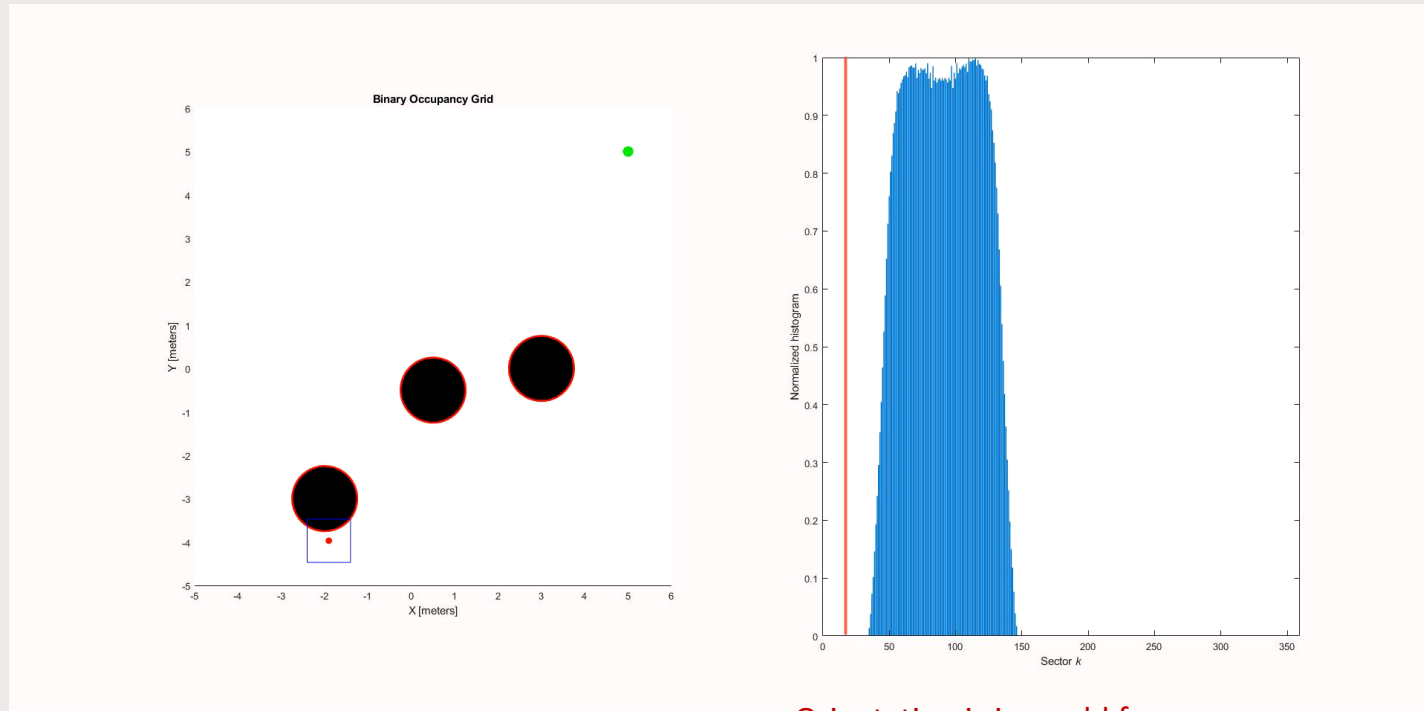


Local navigation algorithms / vector field histograms

- 2D Cartesian histogram grid
- Polar histogram
- Steering direction
- Velocity control
- Example
 - Grid world map to create histogram grid
 - Assumed that obstacle position is fully known



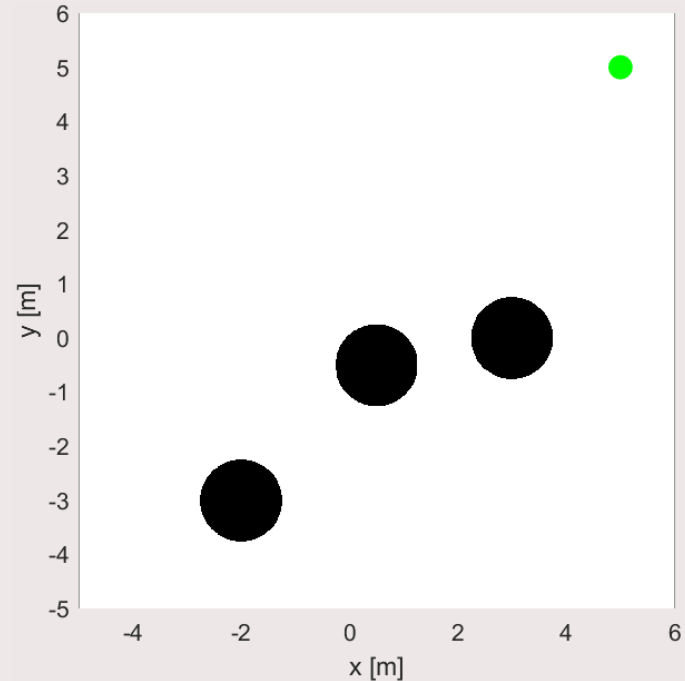
Local navigation algorithms / vector field histograms



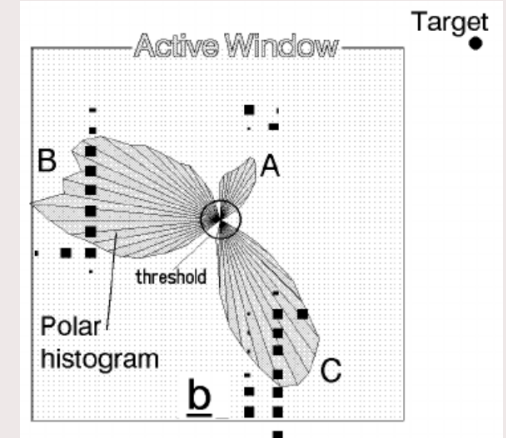
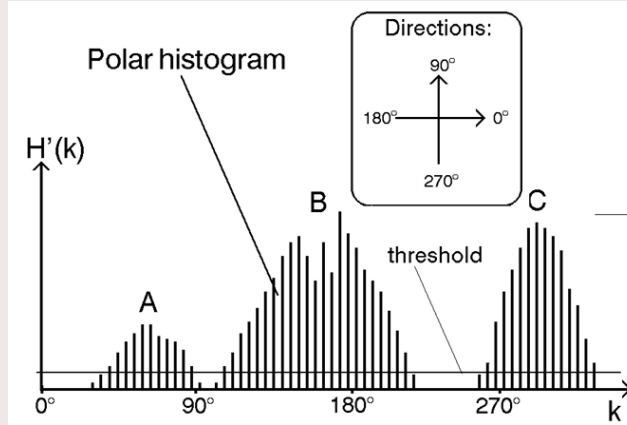
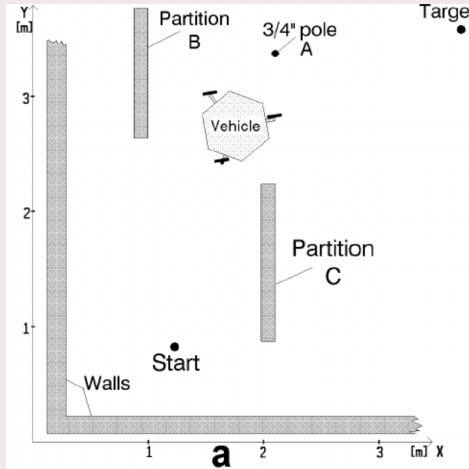
Orientation is in world frame

Local navigation algorithms / vector field histograms

- 2D Cartesian histogram grid
- Polar histogram
- Steering direction
- Velocity control
- Implementation considerations
 - Again, think about the size of the robot
 - How to create the Cartesian histogram grid from sensor data?
 - What is the desired angle if there are no obstacles in the active window?



Local navigation algorithms / vector field histograms



Questions?

Local navigation algorithms / comparison of discussed approaches

- Artificial Potential Fields
 - Repulsion from objects and attraction to goal
 - Simple and computationally efficient
 - Suffers from local minimal and not optimal paths

Local navigation algorithms / comparison of discussed approaches

- Artificial Potential Fields
 - Repulsion from objects and attraction to goal
 - Simple and computationally efficient
 - Suffers from local minimal and not optimal paths
- Dynamic Window Approach
 - Generate feasible action space based on robot dynamics with constant velocity
 - Considers robot dynamics → collision-free and feasible trajectories
 - Requires accurate sensor data, might struggle with densely-populated environments

Local navigation algorithms / comparison of discussed approaches

- Artificial Potential Fields
 - Repulsion from objects and attraction to goal
 - Simple and computationally efficient
 - Suffers from local minimal and not optimal paths
- Dynamic Window Approach
 - Generate feasible action space based on robot dynamics with constant velocity
 - Considers robot dynamics → collision-free and feasible trajectories
 - Requires accurate sensor data, might struggle with densely-populated environments
- Vector Field Histograms
 - Create polar histogram of confidence on object location
 - Computationally efficient, robust to noisy sensor data
 - Can struggle with narrow passages and sharp corners

Local navigation algorithms / other possible approaches

- Optimization based
 - Minimize objective function limited by constraints and system dynamics to find the 'optimal' path or trajectory
 - Objective function:
 - Distance/time to goal,
 - Smoothness of trajectory,
 - Comfort (acceleration/jerk),
 - Safety related.

$$\begin{aligned} & \min \int_0^T J(x(t), u(t)) \\ & \text{subject to} \\ & x(0) = x_0 \\ & \dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), u(t)) \\ & g(x(t), u(t)) \leq 0 \\ & \underline{u} \leq u(t) \leq \bar{u} \\ & \underline{x} \leq x(t) \leq \bar{x} \end{aligned}$$

Local navigation algorithms / other possible approaches

- Optimization based
- Learning based
 - Relies heavily on training sensor data,
 - Train a learning model (e.g., neural network) to
 - Predict behaviour of environment
 - Detect obstacles
 - Decision-making
 - Based on real-life sensor data, create necessary output



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwT4TSRsiVw>

Local navigation algorithms / other possible approaches

- Optimization based
- Learning based
- **Note:**
 - We have explained three approaches from a wide range of possibilities
 - In the exercises, you are allowed to implement approaches not treated in this lecture
 - But note that more complex is not necessarily better..
 - Additionally, note that the explained algorithms directly provide control outputs

Footnote: world representation

- All sensor info treated the same
- In more complex environments different objects should be treated differently based on their semantic context
 - E.g., keep more distance to humans.

Recap

- What is the robot navigation problem?
 - Find a feasible path or trajectory from a given initial pose (A) to the desired final pose (B)
- What is the goal of local navigation?
 - Go from A to B using the global path as a guide
- Local navigation algorithms: properties
- Local navigation algorithms: examples
 - Artificial potential fields
 - Dynamic window approach
 - Vector field histogram
 - Optimization and learning based methods

Assignment

- Divide your group into two (equal sized) groups
- Enable your robot to drive through a corridor to a goal position by implementing **two different local navigation algorithms** (one by each subgroup)
- Answer the provided questions, provide videos of simulations and testing on the field, and upload your code (with comments!)
- Final remark:
 - You will use one of the algorithms in the final challenge
 - Create a **function for each algorithm** (which use the same input + output) to enable easy implementation and testing

Literature

S. M. LaValle, "Planning Algorithms," Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2006, doi: 10.1017/CBO9780511546877.

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D. Fox, W. Burgard and S. Thrun, "The dynamic window approach to collision avoidance," in *IEEE Robotics & Automation Magazine*, vol. 4, no. 1, pp. 23-33, March 1997, doi: 10.1109/100.580977.

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